Faculty Senate Council Meeting
November 13, 2012 at 11:30 a.m.
MINUTES


GUESTS: Bernie Picklo and Carma Horner

Items of Business:

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve minutes from the October 23, 2012 Faculty Senate Council meeting was made by David Merwine and seconded by Don Ulin. The minutes passed unanimously.

Next Faculty Senate Council Meeting: November 27, 2012 in the Academic Dean’s Conference Room at 11:30 a.m.

Next Full Faculty Senate Meeting: January 29, 2013 in University Room at 11:30 a.m.

Classroom Technology: Bernie Picklo has been assigned a new role as instructional designer and media specialist. He was invited to Senate Council to talk about classroom technology. Recently Picklo attended EDUCAUSE which is the premier educational technology conference that focuses on technology, pedagogy, online classroom, and different ways of teaching. The hot topic this year was the flipped classroom. Picklo had previously distributed an article to faculty on the flipped classroom. The concept basically forces the student to prepare for application in the classroom. For example, the student may be assigned to view a recorded lecture for active discussion in class. Professors can enforce student preparation via a short quiz at the beginning of class.

There was discussion about whether technology enhances the classroom experience. Picklo stated that many students believe they are technologically adept; therefore, they want something more than the traditional lecture in the classroom. Picklo would like to see more instructors using available technology. Technologically, Pitt-Bradford is ahead of other schools in terms of lecture capture and online tutoring. Some faculty members have been hesitant to post lectures because of a concern about intellectual property rights. Bernie clarified that faculty have co-proprietary rights with the university; this means that anything made for a class or with university equipment becomes partial property of the university.

Online Standardization: Students are required to complete training and a quiz before they are approved for an online course. Bernie Picklo and James Baldwin review results and release a hold on the online class if the student is approved.

New guidelines require that online courses have discussion boards, journals, and/or wikis and constant interaction between the student/faculty, the student/other students, and the student/content. This summer Picklo will be auditing online courses to be sure they meet the guidelines so they are not classified as correspondence courses.
In fall 2013, all faculty members teaching online courses will be required to complete a training session before they can post a course online. Picklo will be constructing a template for faculty so all classes have visual conformity. He will be working with instructors to make courses easier to follow and with fewer clicks.

Students with Disabilities: Carma Horner, Disability Resources & Services Coordinator, was invited to Senate Council to discuss student services. The Office of Disability Resources & Services (DRS) is for equal access. It is not to help them excel, it is to accommodate. There are currently 85 students receiving services. Some students are receiving psychological services, others have learning disabilities, and others have lower cognitive functioning. Horner’s job is to make sure students are using available resources. If a student approaches a professor with a disability, send the student to the DRS Office. Horner advises that professors not make special accommodations for someone with a disability in the classroom, as what is done for one student must be done for another. For example, if a student requires longer test time and a professor grants it, then they must grant additional test time to any other requesting student. Upon referral to the DRS Office, Horner reviews the student’s situation, reviews accommodations, and applies policies and procedures as necessary to accommodate or not accommodate the disability. People with disabilities do not have to disclose their disability at a job interview; however, if that person is hired and decides to later expose their disability, the employer must accommodate.

50th Anniversary Faculty Component: Faculty Senate has been charged to come up with ideas for an academic component to the 50th Anniversary Year. Melka asked representatives to present at Division Meetings and bring back ideas to Faculty Senate Council.

Tenure Document-Non-Tenure Stream Changes Needed: Tabled for next meeting

Classroom Issues Raised at full Faculty Senate Meeting: Tabled for next meeting

Academic Update:

Online Education: Hardin and Alexander have pulled together a committee to study the distance education market. Distance education courses could attract a new population to campus; however, a full online program would be needed to attract students. The committee will investigate whether distance education can become self-sustaining, if a higher tuition can be charged, and how funds could be obtained to get the infrastructure in place. Tillman will obtain a student perspective of online needs.

Faculty Searches: The searches are moving forward. Hardin has met with search committees and applications are coming in.

Matters Arising: There was a complaint about inconsistent title usage among male and female professors. Please take note of how faculty members are addressed and either use a title to address both male and female professors or don’t use a title, but be consistent. It is not appropriate to address one faculty member with a title and another by their first name.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ulin; Merwine seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.